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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

MARCH | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | 87-3

Employed persons in New Hampshire increased from 540,860 in February to 551,940 in March, an increase of 11,080 or 2.0 percent. The number of unemployed dropped by 150 during the same period as the unemployment rate went from 2.7 percent in February to 2.6 percent in March. Currently there are 15,000 unemployed persons in New Hampshire, while a year ago there were 18,510 and the unemployment rate was 3.4 percent. Nationally the rates were 6.9 percent in March, 7.2 percent in February, and 7.5 percent a year ago. New Hampshire continues to lead the nation with the lowest unemployment rate as last month's 2.7 rate marked the nineteenth consecutive month of this occurrence. It's reasonable to assume that our current 2.6 unemployment rate will continue this achievement.

The number of unemployed and the rate of unemployment for each area are as follows: Berlin LMA 720 (2.9 percent), Claremont LMA 790 (2.1), Concord LMA 1,070 (2.1), Keene LMA 660 (1.7), Laconia LMA 1,260 (2.6), Littleton LMA 360 (2.1), Manchester MSA 1,900 (2.2), Nashua PMSA 2,430 (2.6), Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester N.H. ME. MSA 3,270 (2.6), Salem (N.H. Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill MA. PMSA) 1,960 (4.1), Unattached Area 720 (3.9), and the town of Pelham (N.H. Portion of the Lowell MA. PMSA) 370 (7.0 percent).

Manufacturing was unchanged from February while substantial employment increases occurred in construction and trade. Improved weather conditions spurred construction activities while trade increased as a result of merchandisers switching over to their spring lines. Construction gained 800 jobs in March while trade added on 350. The average weekly manufacturing wage for March was $376.74 which represented average weekly hours worked of 41.4 at a rate of $9.10. The average hourly rate for durables was $9.30 and for nondurables it was $8.66. While apparel represented the lowest number of average weekly hours worked in manufacturing with 33.6, paper producers represented the highest with 47.2. While nonmanufacturing industries represented 75 percent of all employment in March, trade and services accounted for 62 percent of this or nearly half of all employment.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 1,500 from February as manufacturing was unchanged and nonmanufacturing gained 1,500 workers. Compared to the year ago level, nonagricultural wage and salary employment is up 19,150 workers as manufacturing lost 1,850 and nonmanufacturing gained 21,000 during the period. Trade increased by 10,100 workers and services by 5,350.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Month	Year	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Month	Year	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	566,940	556,010	544,300	10,930	22,640	84,710	82,830	81,800	1,880	2,910	93,430	91,410	89,940	2,020	3,490
2. Unemployment	15,000	15,150	18,510	-150	-3,510	1,900	1,930	2,710	-30	-810	2,430	2,380	2,960	50	-530
Percent of labor force	2.6	2.7	3.4	xxx	xxx	2.2	2.3	3.3	xxx	xxx	2.6	2.6	3.3	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	551,640	540,560	525,790	11,080	25,850	82,810	80,900	79,090	1,910	3,720	91,000	89,030	86,980	1,970	4,020
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	300	300	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	493,600	492,100	474,450	1,500	19,150	84,900	84,750	81,600	150	3,300	88,550	87,850	85,500	700	3,050
Manufacturing	117,950	117,950	119,800	0	- 1,850	13,300	13,300	14,200	0	-900	35,250	35,000	35,850	250	-600
Durable goods	81,500	81,400	82,900	100	-1,400	8,350	8,300	8,700	50	-350	29,050	28,850	29,850	200	-800
Lumber & wood prods.	6,000	6,050	5,950	-50	50										
Furniture & fixtures	1,650	1,600	1,600	50	50										
Stone & clay prods.	3,300	3,250	3,050	50	250										
Primary metal prods.	*4,300	*4,250	4,300	50	0										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,650	6,650	6,900	0	-250										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	24,700	24,600	25,600	100	-900	4,750	4,700	5,200	50	-450	22,150	22,100	22,700	50	-550
Electrical prods.	23,550	23,700	24,150	-150	-600										
Miscellaneous prods.	2,000	1,950	2,100	50	-100										
Other durables	9,350	9,350	9,250	0	100	3,600	3,600	3,500	0	100	6,900	6,750	7,150	150	-250
Nondurable goods	36,450	36,550	36,900	-100	-450	4,950	5,000	5,500	-50	-550	6,200	6,150	6,000	50	200
Food & kindred prods.	3,250	3,150	2,800	100	450										
Textile mill prods.	3,900	3,850	3,500	50	400	1,450	1,500	1,500	-50	-50					
Apparel	2,250	2,350	2,400	-100	-150										
Paper & allied prods.	5,350	5,500	5,650	-150	-300										
Print., pub. & allied	7,550	7,550	7,300	0	250										
Leather & lea. prods.	4,450	4,500	5,100	-50	-650										
Other nondurables	9,700	9,650	10,150	50	-450	3,500	3,500	4,000	0	-500					
Nonmanufacturing	375,650	374,150	354,650	1,500	21,000	71,600	71,450	67,400	150	4,200	53,300	52,850	49,650	450	3,650
Construction (inc. min.)	33,000	32,200	32,000	800	1,000	5,750	5,850	4,950	-100	800	5,150	5,050	4,150	100	1,000
Trans., comm. & util.	17,300	17,400	16,050	-100	1,250	4,850	4,800	4,750	50	100	2,150	2,150	2,150	0	0
Trade	123,500	123,150	113,400	350	10,100	23,000	23,100	21,450	-100	1,550	20,400	20,300	18,550	100	1,850
Fin., ins. & real estate	29,650	29,550	27,100	100	2,550	8,250	8,250	7,400	0	850	3,350	3,300	3,100	50	250
Service industry & other	108,800	108,650	103,450	150	5,350	21,800	21,550	20,850	250	950	16,050	15,850	15,550	200	500
Government	63,400	63,200	62,650	200	750	7,950	7,900	8,000	50	-50	6,200	6,200	6,150	0	50
Federal	8,500	8,450	8,100	50	400	2,600	2,500	2,400	100	200	850	850	750	0	100
State	17,050	16,950	16,900	100	150	850	850	800	0	50	250	250	250	0	0
Local	37,850	37,800	37,650	50	200	4,500	4,550	4,800	-50	-300	5,100	5,100	5,150	0	-50

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark MARCH 1986

Labor Disputes:
* Mar. & Feb.
300 300

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

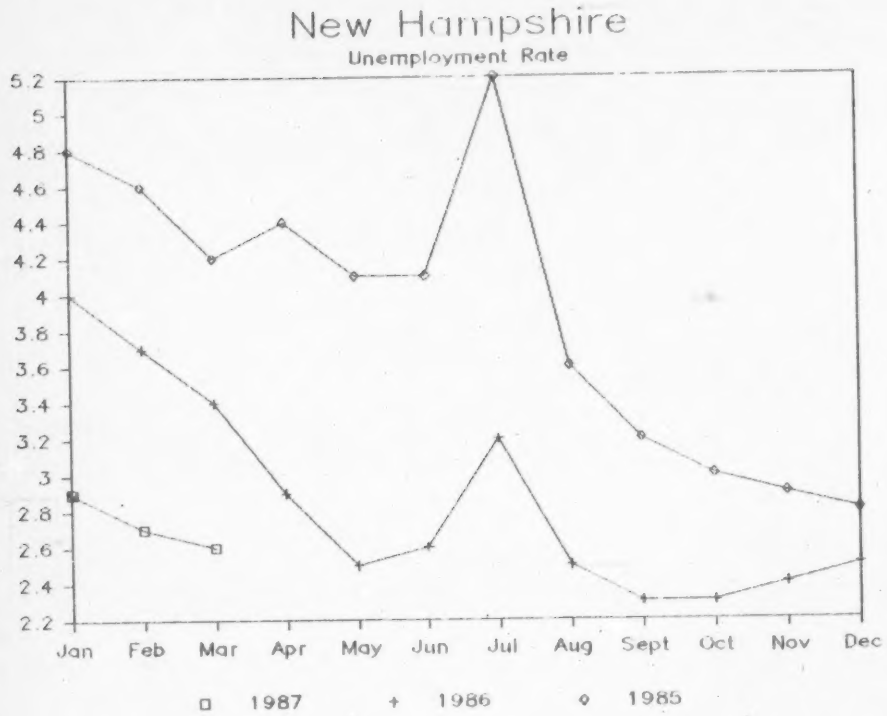
Area	Unemployment*								Civilian Labor Force				
	March 1987		February 1987		March 1986		Numerical Change From Previous		March	February	March	Numerical Change From Previous	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1987	1987	1986	Month	Year
UNITED STATES**	8,124	6.9	8,503	7.2	8,667	7.5	-379	-543	118,353	117,464	116,309	889	2,044
NEW HAMPSHIRE	15,000	2.6	15,150	2.7	18,510	3.4	-150	-3,510	566,940	556,010	544,300	10,930	22,640
BERLIN LMA	720	2.9	690	2.8	1,170	4.8	30	-450	25,070	24,670	24,260	400	810
CLAREMONT LMA	790	2.1	780	2.1	760	2.1	10	30	38,070	37,740	35,730	330	2,340
CONCORD LMA	1,070	2.1	1,220	2.4	1,210	2.9	-150	-140	51,930	50,650	49,220	1,280	2,710
KEENE LMA	660	1.7	730	1.9	1,050	2.8	- 70	-390	39,090	38,380	37,760	710	1,330
LACONIA LMA	1,260	2.6	1,200	2.6	1,270	2.7	60	-10	48,420	46,980	46,250	1,440	2,170
LITTLETON LMA	360	2.1	420	2.5	820	4.9	-60	-460	17,000	16,770	16,610	230	390
MANCHESTER MSA	1,900	2.2	1,930	2.3	2,710	3.3	-30	-810	84,710	82,830	81,800	1,880	2,910
NASHUA PMSA	2,430	2.6	2,380	2.6	2,960	3.3	50	-530	93,430	91,410	89,940	2,020	3,490
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	1,960	4.1	1,970	4.1	2,590	5.3	-10	-630	48,380	47,680	48,990	700	-610
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	3,270	2.6	3,500	2.8	3,560	3.0	-230	-290	124,350	122,850	117,480	1,500	6,870
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	720	3.9	720	4.0	680	3.9	0	40	18,620	18,200	17,500	420	1,120
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	370	7.0	250	4.9	230	4.5	120	140	5,320	5,120	5,150	200	170
County													
BELKNAP	690	2.7	650	2.6	680	2.8	40	10	25,310	24,550	24,150	760	1,160
CARROLL	360	2.1	340	2.0	370	2.3	20	-10	17,230	16,860	16,390	370	840
CHESHIRE	610	1.7	680	2.0	950	2.8	-70	-340	34,920	34,300	33,730	620	1,190
COOS	680	3.5	680	3.5	1,290	6.8	0	-610	19,480	19,180	19,110	300	370
GRAFTON	720	1.9	770	2.1	1,040	2.9	-50	-320	38,130	37,550	36,420	580	1,710
HILLSBOROUGH	4,660	2.6	4,480	2.6	5,680	3.3	180	-1,020	177,470	173,440	170,850	4,030	6,620
MERRIMACK	1,210	2.0	1,340	2.2	1,590	2.7	-130	-380	61,540	60,060	58,690	1,480	2,850
ROCKINGHAM	3,790	3.2	3,950	3.4	4,640	4.0	-160	-850	118,190	116,400	114,930	1,790	3,260
STRAFFORD	1,750	3.2	1,740	3.2	1,840	3.6	10	-90	55,050	54,220	51,690	830	3,360
SULLIVAN	530	2.7	520	2.6	430	2.3	10	100	19,620	19,450	18,340	170	1,280

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1987	1986	1985	1984
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - March	330.5			
Percent change from year ago	2.8			
Year average		323.4	318.5	307.6
Percent increase each year		1.5	3.5	3.4
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - March	335.9			
Percent change from year ago	3.0			
Year average		328.4	322.2	311.1
Percent increase each year		1.9	3.6	4.3

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester Civilian Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	March 1987	February 1987	March 1986	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	124,350	122,850	117,480	1,500	6,870
Unemployment	3,270	3,500	3,560	-230	-290
Percent of Labor Force	2.6	2.8	3.0	xxx	xxx
Employment Total	120,780	119,050	113,920	1,730	6,860
Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	300	300	0	0	300
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary	103,900	103,050	98,800	850	5,100
Manufacturing	20,200	20,050	20,800	150	-600
Durable Goods	12,100	12,150	12,450	-50	-350
Nondurable Goods	8,100	7,900	8,350	200	-250
Nonmanufacturing	83,700	83,000	78,000	700	5,700
Construction (inc. mining)	4,950	4,900	4,500	50	450
Trans., Commun. & Utilities	2,650	2,650	2,450	0	200
Trade	26,850	26,600	24,050	250	2,800
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	6,100	6,050	5,400	50	700
Services	18,200	18,100	16,650	100	1,550
Government	24,950	24,700	24,950	250	0
Federal	10,500	10,400	11,100	100	-600
State	5,400	5,450	5,350	-50	50
Local	9,050	8,850	8,500	200	350

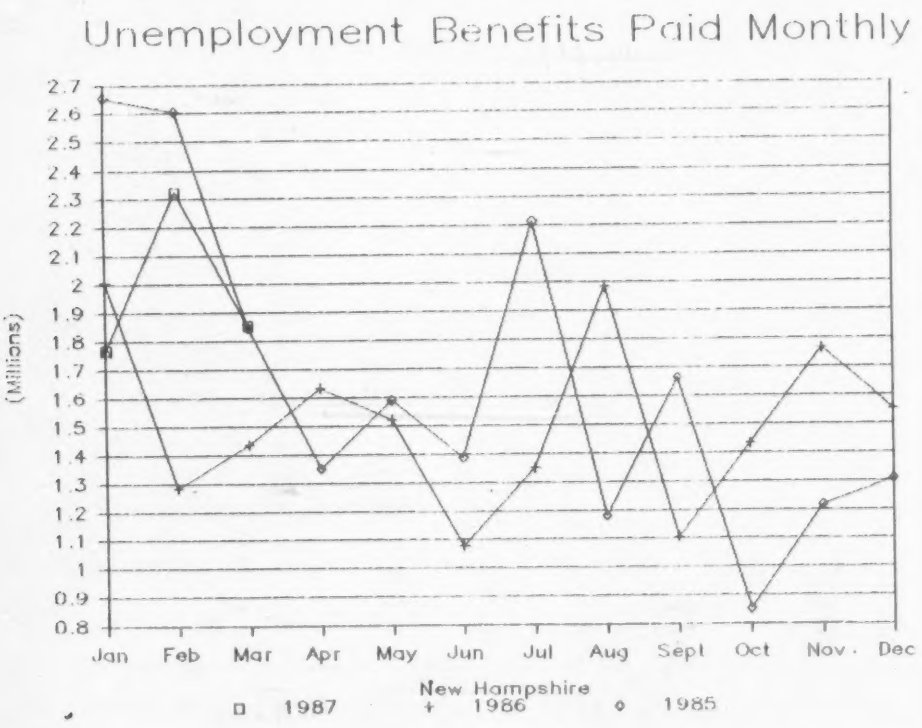
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986
Manufacturing	$369.82	$376.33	N/A	41.6	41.4	N/A	$8.89	$9.09	N/A
Durable Goods	391.35	397.03	N/A	41.9	41.4	N/A	9.34	9.59	N/A
Nondurable - Goods	341.14	346.51	N/A	41.2	41.3	N/A	8.28	8.39	N/A

Sample Percent of Production Workers	Total Production Workers	Firms Reporting
45%	14,750	40

Weekly Claims Filed During
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	3,108	13,282	4	16	3	11	38	54	10	30
Berlin	251	612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Claremont	172	541	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Concord	196	896	1	0	0	0	3	5	0	0
Conway	64	195	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
Dover	464	2,278	1	1	2	2	7	11	2	7
Keene	117	472	0	0	0	4	2	1	1	5
Laconia	253	1,140	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0
Lebanon	37	208	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Littleton	152	479	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	0
Manchester	587	2,221	1	2	0	0	3	2	2	3
Nashua	253	1,124	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Portsmouth	294	1,325	0	4	0	2	11	20	5	11
Salem	106	507	0	8	1	1	1	1	0	0
Liable Interstate	162	1,283	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	2

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $120.19



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$139,173,642.11

Net contributions received during month:

$ 78,837.83

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,853,117.28

Interest Received:

$ 3,286,755.86

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986
All manufacturing	$376.74	$375.99	$357.06	41.4	41.5	40.9	$9.10	$9.06	$8.73
Durable goods	393.39	390.35	369.90	42.3	42.2	41.1	9.30	9.25	9.00
Lumber & wood prods.	298.37	291.80	262.66	38.8	38.7	38.4	7.69	7.54	6.84
Furniture & fixtures	291.80	300.62	275.80	38.7	40.9	39.4	7.54	7.36	7.00
Stone & clay prods.	398.68	378.84	336.98	45.1	44.0	40.6	8.84	8.61	8.30
Primary metal prods.	436.50	433.06	399.07	45.0	44.1	41.7	9.70	9.82	9.57
Fab. metal prods.	387.32	387.24	342.91	42.1	42.0	39.1	9.20	9.22	8.77
Mach. (exc. elec.)	418.19	419.69	406.12	44.3	44.6	44.0	9.44	9.41	9.23
Electrical prods.	414.08	410.75	395.85	41.7	41.7	40.6	9.93	9.85	9.75
Miscellaneous prods.	321.10	295.29	253.37	42.7	38.3	36.3	7.52	7.71	6.98
Other durables	380.70	377.40	375.00	40.5	40.8	41.3	9.40	9.25	9.08
Nondurable goods	342.94	346.46	330.89	39.6	40.1	40.5	8.66	8.64	8.17
Food & kindred prods.	414.06	416.30	398.31	41.2	40.3	42.6	10.05	10.33	9.35
Textile mill prods.	314.23	325.98	298.80	41.4	42.5	41.1	7.59	7.67	7.27
Apparel	209.33	233.13	221.34	33.6	37.3	37.2	6.23	6.25	5.95
Paper & allied prods.	481.44	481.99	452.18	47.2	47.3	47.2	10.20	10.19	9.58
Print., pub. & allied	348.56	353.96	344.47	37.2	38.6	39.1	9.37	9.17	8.81
Leather & lea. prods.	202.54	198.22	193.57	34.8	34.0	34.2	5.82	5.83	5.66
Footwear	182.72	179.31	175.76	33.9	32.9	33.1	5.39	5.45	5.31
Other nondurables	368.23	366.51	358.11	40.2	40.1	41.4	9.16	9.14	8.65

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 46%

Total Production Workers: 81,700

Firms Reporting: 330

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986
All manufacturing	$363.80	$372.10	$347.20	39.5	40.8	40.0	$9.21	$9.12	$8.68
Durable goods	379.83	384.75	357.63	39.7	40.5	39.0	9.57	9.50	9.17
Mach. & elec. prods.	401.99	395.38	365.20	41.7	41.1	40.0	9.64	9.62	9.13
Other durables	352.28	372.67	347.59	37.2	39.9	37.7	9.47	9.34	9.22
Nondurable goods	306.93	348.55	330.30	39.3	41.2	41.6	7.81	8.46	7.94
Textiles & apparel	269.38	300.62	300.56	36.8	40.9	41.4	7.32	7.35	7.26
Other nondurables	366.93	370.87	341.94	40.5	41.3	41.7	9.06	8.98	8.20

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 54%

Total Production Workers: 10,000

Firms Reporting: 41

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986
All manufacturing	$483.32	$474.75	$434.93	43.0	42.2	41.7	$11.24	$11.25	$10.43
Durable goods	502.92	491.92	442.24	44.0	43.0	41.8	11.43	11.44	10.58
Mach. & elec. prods.	528.70	527.85	483.19	42.5	42.5	42.2	12.44	12.42	11.45
Other durables	447.92	413.71	344.35	47.1	44.2	40.8	9.53	9.36	8.44
Nondurable goods	410.15	407.16	403.76	39.4	39.0	41.2	10.41	10.44	9.80

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 48%

Total Production Workers: 19,700

Firms Reporting: 59

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending March 1987

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL						
Prof., Tech. (00-16)	9,790	3,976	1,436	653	1,076	391
Managerial (18,19)	1,397	462	162	62	203	56
Clerical (20-24)	1,624	1,350	227	193	153	110
Sales (25-29)	486	222	84	30	48	23
Services (3)	1,500	928	249	159	118	63
Farm (4)	128	22	14	3	18	3
Processing (5)	150	55	20	10	30	11
Machine Trade (6)	730	162	89	38	76	13
Benchwork (7)	762	492	147	100	117	75
Structural (8)	1,987	88	265	10	164	6
Miscellaneous (9)	996	185	175	46	143	29
Unclassified	30	10	4	2	6	2

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	March 1987	February 1987	March 1986
Total applicants for employment	2,491	2,493	23,660
Total nonagricultural job openings received	1,991	1,607	18,371
Job openings unfilled end of month	1,890	1,433	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	346	701	7,761